

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 12 have been amended, claims 2 and 7 cancelled and claim 16 added. Re-examination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

Claims 1 to 6 and 12 to 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 6,445,926 to Boch in view of European Application 0 429 200 to Wildey. Reconsideration of this rejection in view of the amendments to the claims is respectfully requested.

U.S. Patent 6,445,926 to Boch teaches a cellular wireless system in which polarization diversity is employed to increase the use of frequency license in cellular wireless systems. Boch is totally silent with respect to the reduction of interference zones between adjacent cells in a multi cell configuration. In the present application the interference zones are reduced using a combination of polarization diversity and by rotating sectors in each cell such that the dividing lines between sectors are offset relative to the grid configuration by a configurable angle. Although Wildey discloses a scheme whereby sectors are rotated within a cell there is no suggestion of using a combination of sector rotation and polarization diversity to reduce inter cell interference.

It is of course well established that to support a case of obviousness under 35 USC 103(a)

"There must be some suggestion or motivation either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the referenced teaching. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally the prior art reference or references when combined must teach all the claim limitations" (See MPEP 2143.)

It is respectfully submitted that neither of the cited references teach or suggest the combination of sector rotation and polarization diversity to reduce inter cell interference.

Claims 7 to 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boch in view of Wildey and Florea (U.S. Patent 6,553,234). Although Florea discusses intercell slivers there is no suggestion that these can be reduced through a combination of polarization diversity and sector rotation within each cell. Accordingly, for the reasons discussed above it is believed that these claims, as amended, distinguish the cited references.

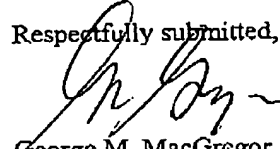
Claim 16 has been added to further distinguish the invention over the cited references. Claim 16 relates to the polarization B scheme as shown in Figures 10 through 14 wherein the polarization between sectors alternate between horizontal and vertical. As shown in Figure 13, for example, and viewed in the vertical direction there is shown alternating vertical and horizontal polarization. Florea and Wildey do not show such a polarization scheme. For this reason it is submitted that new claim 16, which is supported by the drawings as originally filed, further distinguish the cited reference.

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In view of the foregoing it is believed that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance.
Favourable reconsideration and action to this end is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



George M. MacGregor, Reg. No. 37,547
Marks & Clerk
P.O. Box 957, Station B
280 Slater Street, Suite 1800
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1P 5S7

Telephone No.: (613) 236.9561
Facsimile No.: (613) 230-8821